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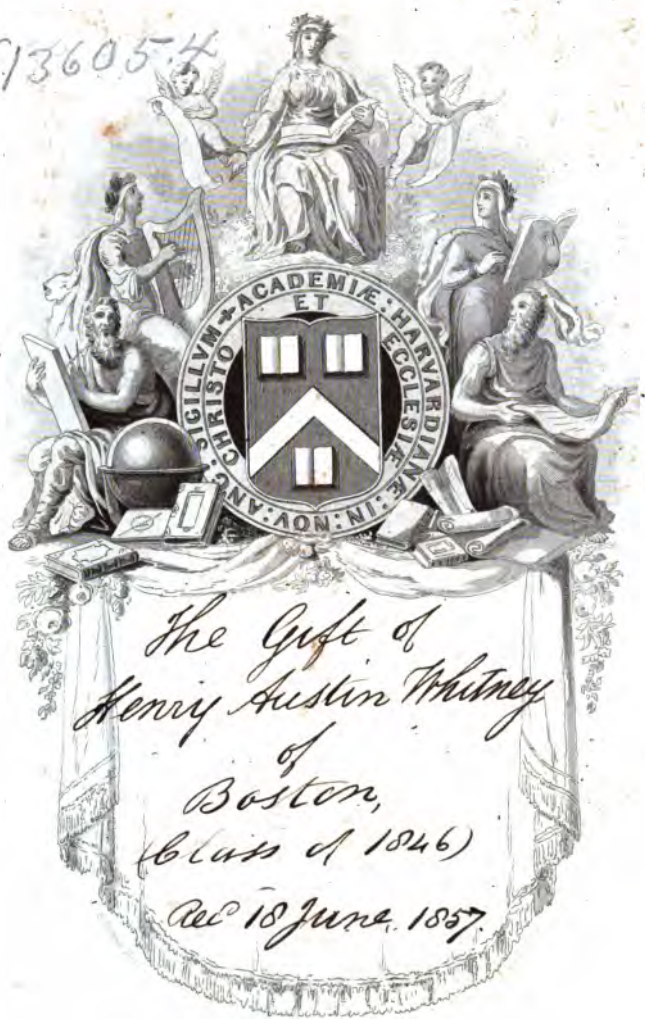
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Memoir
of
William Lawrence

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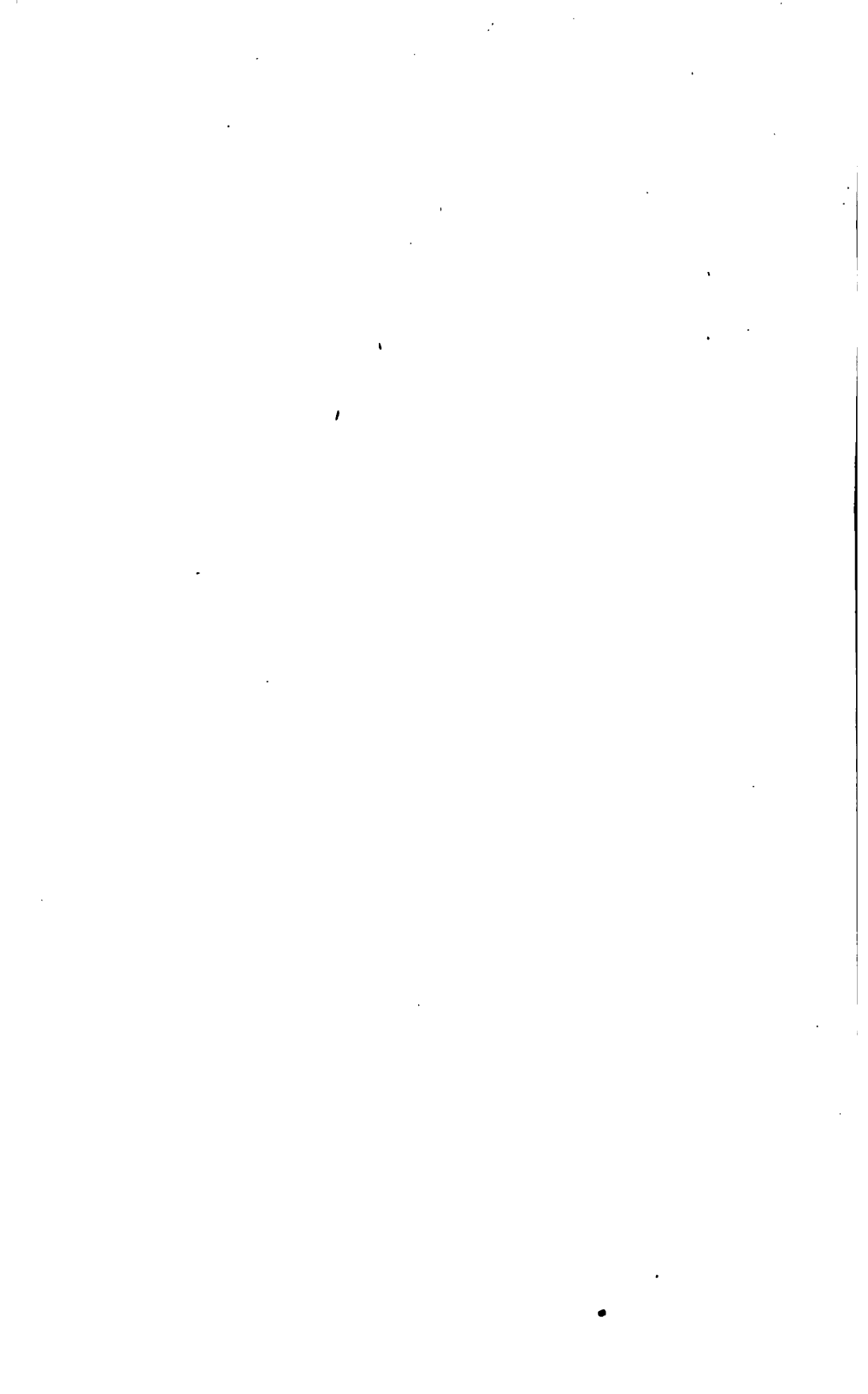
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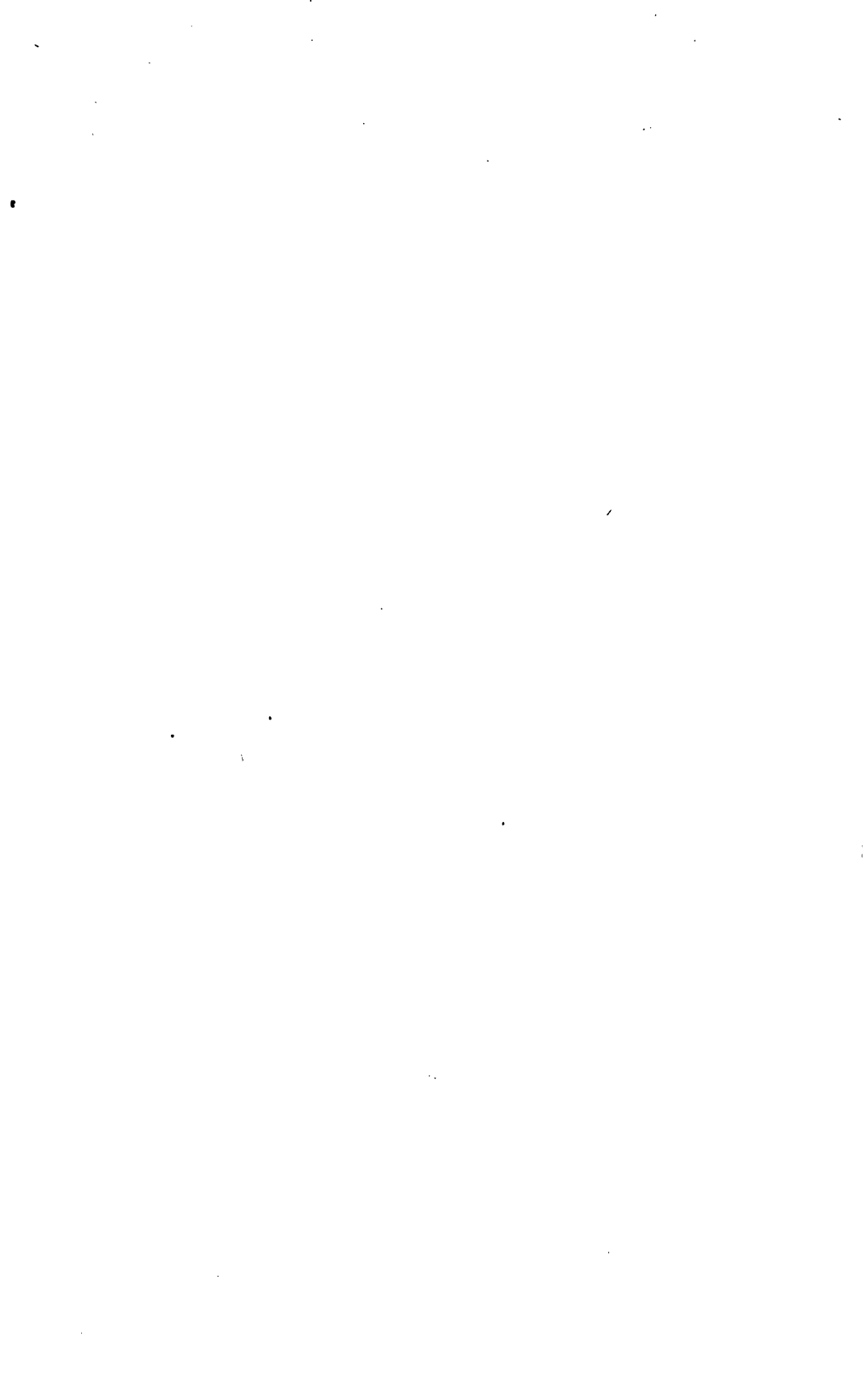
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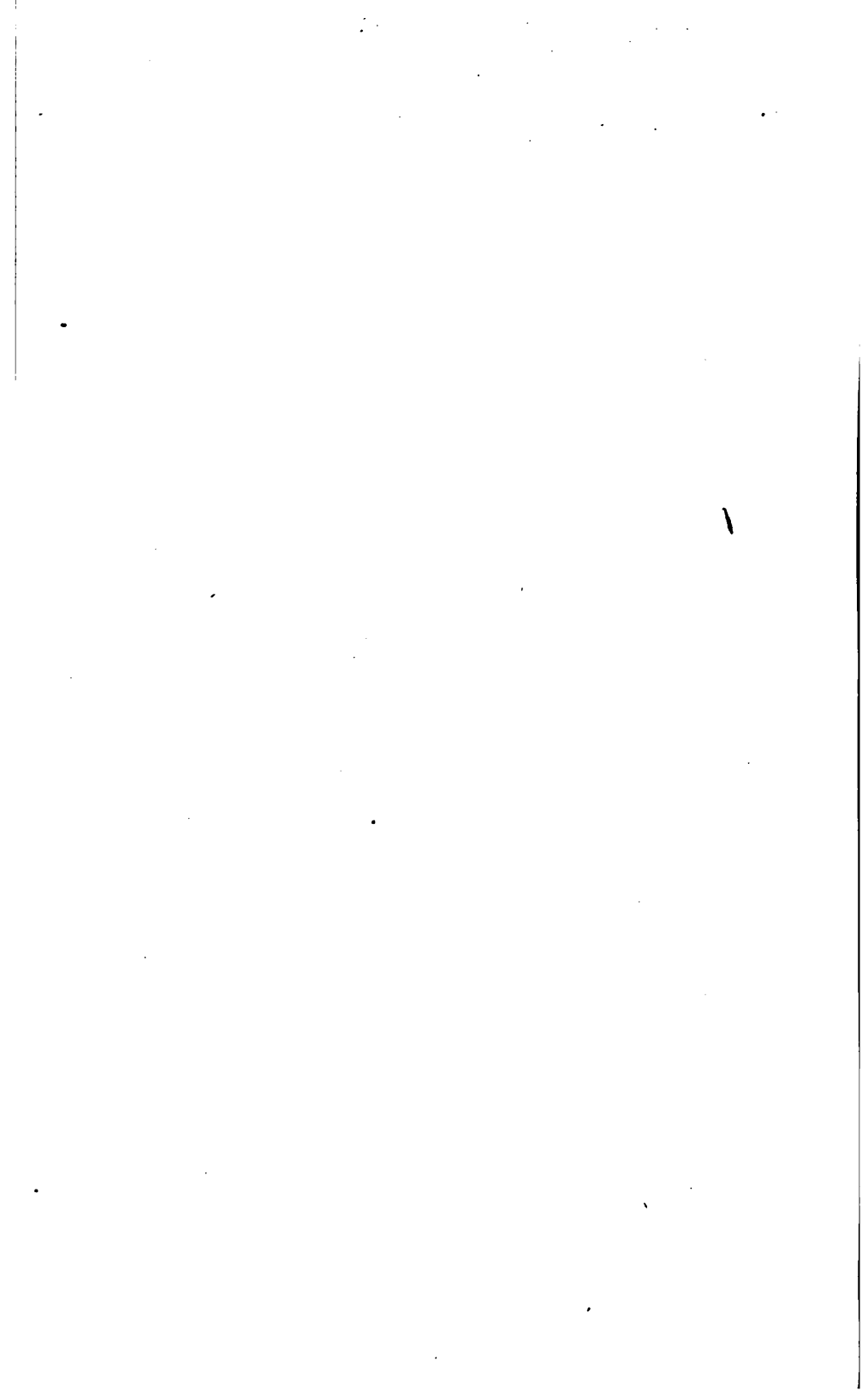
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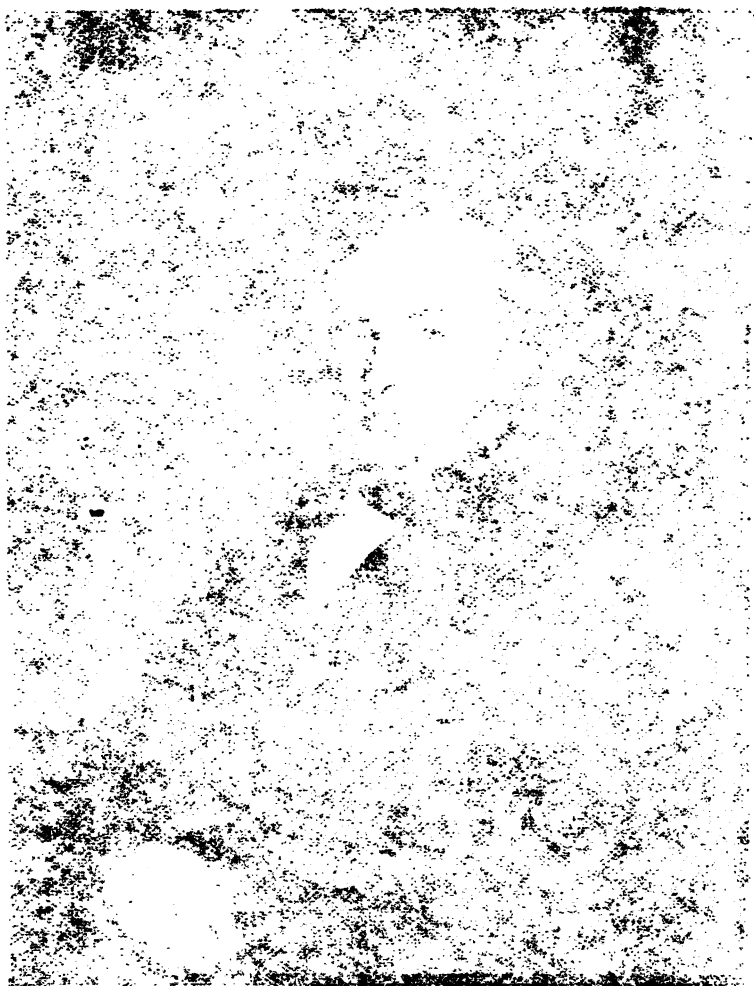
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WILLIAM LAWRENCE.

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WILLIAM T. HARRIS

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MEMOIR

OF

WILLIAM LA^WRENCE.

WRITTEN FOR THE

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF EDUCATION,

BY

SAMUEL KIRKLAND LO^THROP, D. D.

Appended,
A Genealogical Memoir.

BOSTON:
PRIVATELY PRINTED.

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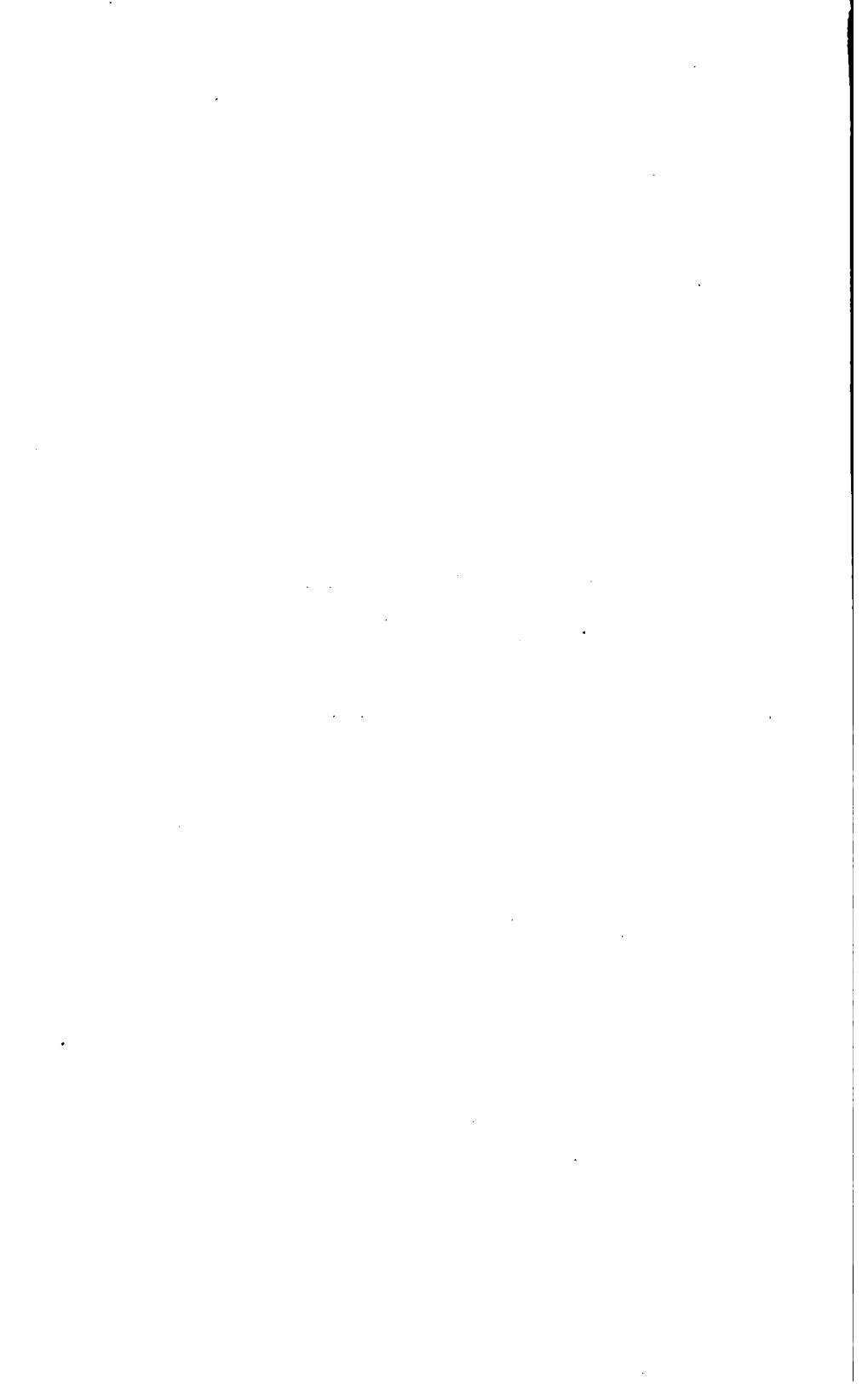
661's of 1856

RIVERSIDE, CAMBRIDGE:

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THIS Memoir was prepared by the Rev. Dr. LOTHROP, for the "American Journal of Education," at the request of the Editor, HENRY BARNARD, LL. D., and appeared in the July number. A few copies have been reprinted in this form, for the use of the family and friends of the late Mr. LAWRENCE.

Boston, August, 1856.



MEMOIR
OF
WILLIAM LAWRENCE.

WANT teaches us value. They know best how to prize a thing, who are deprived of it, or have never been blest with its possession. This explains the fact, that education, for its wider diffusion and its enlarged instrumentalities, is greatly indebted to the benefactions of many, who, in their youth, had themselves but slight participation in its advantages.

If the facilities of commerce have been multiplied, and her gains increased by the discoveries of science and the inventions of art, commerce has repaid the debt, by her rich gifts to schools and colleges, her noble endowment of institutions of learning, at which science can be studied and art promoted, and where many successive generations can have the benefit of the highest intellectual and moral culture.

The history of education, in all ages and countries, bears some testimony to this fact ; New England especially abounds with evidences and illustrations of it. The sneer about "The Almighty Dollar," in connection with American character, is as false as it is silly, and as ungenerous as it is untrue. Our people are undoubtedly frugal, industrious, enterprising. Like all the rest of the world, they love money, they strive to get it, and commonly succeed in obtaining it. But they know how to use and enjoy it. They love money, not for its own sake simply, but for what it enables them to do, and, as a general remark, it may be said that they do well with it. They have devoted large portions of it, in every generation, to objects of public benefit and blessing.

New England, as regards the Anglo-Saxon occupation of her soil, is but little over two hundred years old. She is not without spot or blemish, either in her present condition or her past history ; but if we collect the statistics of her beneficence, if we take an inventory of her schools, colleges, hospitals, asylums, the various institutions of learning or philanthropy, which that beneficence has established, endowed, made strong and efficient, the result is honorable alike to human nature and the New England character. It teaches that wealth does not always beget a hard-hearted selfishness ; that many rich in this world's goods have also been rich in good deeds, and, as faithful stewards of the

Lord's bounty, have used their wealth for wise and noble purposes.

Among those entitled to this eulogy, whose name may claim a high place on the list of benefactors to the cause of education, is the late WILLIAM LAWRENCE, who, in common with his brothers, Amos and Abbott, of whom we have already given some notices in this Journal, was a noble specimen of a New England merchant, and a Christian citizen and patriot. He was born at Groton, September 7, 1783, and was the third son and child of Samuel and Susan Parker Lawrence, some account of whom may be interesting, as indicating the source of the strongly-marked character of their sons. The name of Lawrence dates far back in English history, and has gathered to itself honors in many successive generations. The common ancestor of the New England Lawrences was John Lawrence, of ~~Great St. Albans, Hertfordshire~~ *Wipet* *Co. Suffolk*, who came to this country in 1635, and settled at Watertown, where he resided many years, became the father of a numerous family, and the possessor, as the town records show, of many valuable parcels of land. In 1660, he removed to Groton, then recently erected into a plantation or township by order of the General Court, on the petition, with others, of Dean Winthrop, son of Governor Winthrop. It received its name, probably, from Winthrop, who came from Groton, Suffolk County, England. Here John Lawrence soon became an honored, trusted, and influential citizen,

and here some one or more families of his descendants have ever since resided, identifying the name of Lawrence with the history and character of the town.

Samuel Lawrence was the fifth generation in descent from the above-mentioned John Lawrence. He was born in Groton, April 24, 1754, and was, therefore, in his early manhood, when our revolutionary struggle commenced. In common with all the hardy, intelligent, liberty-loving yeomanry of New England, he espoused the cause of the Colonies, and devoted himself to it with a courage that never failed, a constancy that never faltered till his country had passed "from impending servitude to acknowledged independence." At work in the field, ploughing his paternal acres, when the news of the attack upon Concord reached Groton, he immediately unloosed a horse from his team, and mounting, rode rapidly through Groton and some of the adjoining towns, spreading the alarm, and summoning the militia to assemble. He returned in season to join his own company at the church at Groton, at twelve o'clock, where, after prayer offered by the pastor of the town, they started for Concord, helped to swell that impetuous tide of resistance which drove back the invaders, and slept that night on Cambridge Common, after a forced march of thirty miles, and hot skirmishes with the retreating foe. From that time to the peace of 1783, he was "a soldier of the Revolution," and, with the exception

of one or two brief visits to his family and friends at Groton, he was in actual service throughout the whole war. He rose to the rank of major, and for a considerable period was attached to General Sullivan's staff, as adjutant; an office for which his powerful lungs and sonorous voice, which could be heard throughout a long line of troops, peculiarly fitted him. He was in many of the severest battles of the Revolution. At Bunker Hill, where he was slightly wounded, his coat and hat were pierced with the balls of the enemy, and were preserved in the family for many years. At one time, he commanded a company, whose rank and file were all negroes, of whose courage, military discipline, and fidelity, he always spoke with respect. On one occasion, being out reconnoitring with this company, he got so far in advance of his command, that he was surrounded, and on the point of being made prisoner by the enemy. The men soon discovering his peril, rushed to his rescue, and fought with the most determined bravery till that rescue was effectually secured. He never forgot this circumstance; and ever after took especial pains to show kindness and hospitality to any individual of the colored race who came near his dwelling.

Mr. Lawrence was married during the war, in the year 1777, to Susanna Parker; and, while the marriage ceremony was in progress, the tolling of the bell summoned the minute men to assemble at the church for instant service. The moment the

rite was concluded, he parted from his bride and friends, and hastened to Rhode Island. He was permitted to return, however, on a brief furlough of two or three days, at the expiration of which he entered again upon active service, from which he had no respite till late in the autumn of 1778, when he visited Groton, rejoicing to find himself a father as well as a husband.

At the close of the war, Major Lawrence settled in Groton, on a beautiful farm on the outskirts of the village, where he passed the remainder of his life, honored and esteemed by his townsmen, who gladly elected him to such offices and honors as he was willing to accept. A man of strong sense, of clear judgment, of stern integrity, of ardent patriotism, and devout piety, his influence was felt, his energies exerted in every thing that concerned the social, moral, and religious improvement of the town. He was deacon of the First Congregational Church in Groton for more than forty years. He was one of the original founders, and for thirty-three years a trustee of Groton Academy, an institution which his sons have since munificently endowed. In the Shay's rebellion, and during all the troubles of 1786-87, he stood firm for the government, and was foremost in advocating the supremacy of the laws. A devout man, strict in all religious observances, firm, almost rigid in the discipline of his family, he was cheerful, joyous, benignant, "given to hospitality," and never so happy as when

making happy those around him. The young loved him, and the reverence with which they gathered around him was tempered by the most confiding affection.

He lived to be present at the laying of the corner-stone of the Bunker Hill Monument, in 1825; an occasion in which, as one of the survivors of that most memorable and important battle of the Revolution, he felt a deep personal interest. The excitements of that week, passed in Boston, brought on a paralytic attack, from which he never entirely recovered. He died November 8, 1827, aged seventy-three.

Susanna Parker Lawrence was born in Groton, where her father, William Parker, cultivated a farm, now owned by the town. He subsequently removed to Concord, where he resided several years. Susanna, his youngest daughter, was distinguished for quiet and gentle manners, a loving spirit, a truly feminine grace and dignity of character; with these qualities were united a nobility of soul, a lofty and indomitable energy, that made honor and reverence to mingle largely in the love borne to her by her husband and children. In illustration of her own energy, as well as of the customs of that period, it may be mentioned that, while her father lived at Concord, it was no unusual thing for her to mount a horse, ride to the ferry at Charlestown, a distance of seventeen miles, go over to Boston "shopping," and return to Concord on the same

day. From a hill in the rear of her father's residence, in the easterly part of the village of Concord, she saw the British troops enter that town on the morning of the 19th of April, 1776, and remained there till she saw them pass out a retreating and discomfited foe. Like most of the women of that day, she was an ardent patriot, espousing the cause of the colonies with an intense devotion, ready to endure all the trials and make all sacrifices which the interests of that cause demanded; and it may be, that not a little of the courage, the perseverance and fidelity displayed by her lover and husband, amid the perils and hardships of that long struggle for liberty and independence, is to be ascribed to her inspiring influence.

To an extraordinary energy of character, and excellent habits of industry and frugality, which enabled her to manage successfully, in the absence of her husband, both the affairs of the farm and of the household, she added the power of religious faith, and the winning graces of an elevated Christian character. She was eminently a religious woman, governing herself by religious principles in the discipline of her family and the education of her children; and thus exercising over them, in the forming period of character, a winning and persuasive religious influence. In the earliest recollection of all of them, there distinctly abides her hallowed image, kneeling at their bedside, and breathing a devout, earnest prayer, for the divine protection and

blessing upon their young hearts. Her faith, which had ever adorned her life and character, which made her active, open, honorable and useful, shed a halo of moral beauty and glory around her declining years. Serenely cheerful, still young in her affections and sympathies, devoutly submissive, ready to "abide, or to depart and be with Christ," she presented a most attractive picture of lovely and venerable old age. She survived her husband eighteen years, and died May 2, 1845, aged eighty-nine years.

Such were the parents of "the Lawrences;" intelligent, virtuous, high principled, devout, ordering their family in the fear of God, and sanctifying all social affections and sympathies, all domestic duty and intercourse, by Christian faith and daily prayer. A family thus ordered and pervaded by the spirit of religion, is a miniature of heaven; it is a nursery of virtue to the state, the church, the world. Incalculable blessings and holy influences go forth from it. Here is the point at which to begin the reform of the world,—the family, which is a divine institution; and every scheme of philanthropy, every enterprise of social or civil reform that overlooks or disregards this, will fail. They who are faithful here, are benefactors of the community to an extent which cannot be calculated; negligent in this, they have no claim to be benefactors, though their names stand first among the contributors to every public charity in the land.

Samuel and Susanna Lawrence did not fail in this great duty. They made their home eminently a Christian home ; and to the influences of this home and of those parents, may be traced all the marked and prominent features in the character of their sons.

Of these sons, William, the subject of this memoir, originally intended to be a farmer. A strong constitution, robust health, and a vigorous physical frame, united with a natural love of agricultural pursuits, with which he had been familiar from his childhood, had their influence in producing this determination. But this physical strength was under the direction of an earnest, enthusiastic spirit, that might easily be led to task it beyond what it could bear ; and it was so tasked. In the autumn of 1809, after three or four years of very hard work on the farm, his health failed, and there was so much danger that his strength and constitution would break down entirely, that it was thought best that he should relinquish for a season all laborious occupations, and, leaving home, pass the winter quietly with his brother Amos, who had then recently established himself in business in Boston. He accordingly repaired to Boston in October, and during the winter remained with his brother, more as a companion than a clerk or an apprentice ; occasionally helping him, and doing so more and more as he became interested and competent in the sale of goods at the store, and in making purchases at auctions.

When the spring opened, he found himself much improved in health, but not strong enough to resume the severe labors that would devolve upon him in the care and culture of his father's farm. He found also that the winter's experience had developed a tact and taste for commercial pursuits, and he determined to change his plan of life and become a merchant. He passed the remainder of the year, therefore, with his brother, adding to his experience and knowledge; and in 1810, commenced business for himself, in a small store near that of his brother Amos, with no capital but his own energies and talent, and the credit which these could procure for him. The fact, that at twenty-six years of age, with only the limited experience of a few months in his brother's store, he passed at once from agricultural to commercial pursuits, and prosecuted the latter from the beginning with an uninterrupted and constantly widening success, is a sufficient evidence both of the energy of his character and the force and capacity of his intellect.

The incidents of his commercial life are few and simple. He continued in business by himself, gradually enlarging his operations as his means increased, till 1822, when he formed a partnership with his brother Samuel, under the style of W. & S. Lawrence. This union of his own experience and judgment with the fresh energy and talent of his younger brother, made a strong commercial house, whose operations soon became extensive and

prosperous. In 1825, W. & S. Lawrence, who had hitherto been chiefly importers, became interested in domestic manufactures. It was through their agency and influence that the first incorporated company for the manufacture of woollen goods was formed at Lowell, — the Middlesex Company. This enlargement of their operations required an addition to the strength and means of the firm, which was accordingly made. Mr. William W. Stone became a partner of the house in 1826, and the business was transacted under the firm of W. & S. Lawrence & Stone. In this connection, Mr. Lawrence continued in active business, principally the domestic commission business, for the manufacture and sale of American woollens, till 1842, when he retired with an ample fortune, partly acquired by his own industry and enterprise, and partly received as his wife's patrimony from her father, William Bordman, of Boston, whose daughter Susan, Mr. Lawrence had married in 1813, and who still survives him, together with four children, one son and three daughters, all of whom are married.

In addition to the wise forethought and patriotic enterprise with which he and others encouraged the introduction of domestic manufactures, two events in his commercial career may be briefly noticed. In the movement made by Messrs. Greenough & Cotting, by which Cornhill, leading from Dock Square to Court Street, was opened, Mr. William Lawrence took an active and hearty interest, and was

one of the first to occupy one of the stores in the lower part of the new street. This was at that time one of the most important enterprises, and a greater change affecting the convenience of intercourse in the heart of the city, than any that had been attempted. Mr. Lawrence was interested in it, through that feeling which prompted him always to encourage, by his influence and means, every enterprise that promised to promote the prosperity and progress of the community.

But as a merchant and a business man, the most signal point in his career—that which proves his clear discernment, not only of the importance to all the interests of trade of an equalized circulating medium, but of the best method of producing such equality of value in the circulating medium of New England, and which entitles him, therefore, to the gratitude of the merchants and business men of Boston and the New England States—was his persevering efforts to introduce what is now familiarly known as “The Suffolk Bank System.” This bank was chartered in 1818. Mr. Lawrence was a member of the Board of Directors, from its organization up to the time of his death, a period of thirty years. It is not necessary that we should explain this system in detail. It is sufficient for us to say, that the bills of every bank entering into it are current, at par value, at Boston, and all over New England. If a trader in the country has a demand to meet in Boston, he can send or bring down the

bills of the local bank in his neighborhood ; the Boston merchant can receive them without discount, because he can immediately deposit them at the Suffolk Bank, and receive in return Suffolk Bank bills or specie. The effect is obvious ; but the value and importance of the arrangement, in facilitating all the exchanges of business, or the difficulty of introducing it, can only be justly appreciated by those who are old enough to remember the state of things that existed before it was put in force. Then the merchants and traders of Boston — formerly the central market of the New England States more than now — were in the habit of selling the bills of country banks to brokers at a discount, which depended upon the distance of the bank from Boston, the difficulty of sending the bills for redemption to the towns where they were payable, a want of knowledge of their responsibility, and other like considerations. There was an inequality and irregularity in the currency, causing great embarrassments and delays in pecuniary transactions. These operated as a great restriction upon trade. To remove it was the object of the arrangement introduced and carried to a successful issue by the Suffolk Bank. The undertaking was a bold one, and indomitable energy and perseverance were necessary to success. It naturally met with opposition at first, from the sensitiveness of the several States in regard to their currency, and from the prejudices of the smaller and jealousy of the larger towns in the Commonwealth.

The earnest advocacy of its friends, and the practical working of the plan as fast and as far as it prevailed, gradually overcame this opposition; and the "system" now embraces all, or nearly all the banks in the New England States, giving to these States a sound and uniform currency, the comforts and advantages of which cannot be too highly appreciated.

It is not intended to detract in the least from the credit due to other early and earnest advocates of the system — some of whom are still connected with the Suffolk Bank, and take a deep interest in its prosperity and usefulness — when we say, that its success is to be attributed in no small degree to the wise, various, and persevering efforts of Mr. William Lawrence.

For these efforts, were there no other cause, he is entitled to the grateful remembrance of the mercantile community.

On retiring from active business, in 1842, Mr. Lawrence turned with fresh relish to agricultural pursuits, and the old homestead and the paternal acres at Groton, became objects of deep interest. He continued to reside in Boston, but the improvement of the farm at Groton occupied much of his thought, and gave a zest and pleasure to the closing years of his life. His health, which had been failing for some time, broke down entirely in the autumn of 1847; and after a lingering illness of ten months, which he bore with Christian fortitude and

resignation, he expired on the 14th of October, 1848.

As a citizen and merchant of Boston, Mr. Lawrence was always a cheerful and prominent contributor to every enterprise of Christian benevolence, and to any object that an enlightened patriotism and a broad and generous humanity approved. But in harmony with the purpose of this Journal, his claims as a benefactor to the cause of education, demand our particular attention. These claims are substantiated not simply by the munificence of his gifts to the Lawrence Academy, but also by the wisdom of the manner in which they were bestowed, and the good sense which marked the conditions annexed. The Groton Academy dates its origin from a joint stock organization formed for the purpose, on the 27th of April, 1793. Five pounds constituted a share of this stock. Three hundred and twenty-five pounds were raised by subscriptions, or shares taken by forty-four individuals, all of whom were inhabitants of Groton, except four, who were citizens of Pepperell. The town of Groton subscribed forty shares, on which, however, interest only was to be paid from year to year. Application was made to the General Court for an act of incorporation, which was granted, bearing date September 25, 1793. Under this act, organization was duly effected on the 17th of October, 1793, and fifteen persons chosen to constitute the Board of Trustees. In November of that year, the school opened in the

academy building, which had been erected for the purpose, and which "stands yet on the same spot where it was originally placed, though at present it is not to be recognized in the pile of improvements which have been built up around it."

Thus, small in its beginnings and slender in its means, was this academy, which is now one of the most flourishing and best endowed institutions of its class in New England. For some years, the only resources of the school were the tuition fees of the pupils and the interest on the forty shares subscribed by the town of Groton. In 1797, on petition of the Trustees, the General Court made them a grant of one half a township of land in Maine, about eleven thousand five hundred and twenty acres, which was subsequently sold for fifty cents per acre. In 1825, the widow of James Brazier, Esq., one of the original subscribers to the joint stock for the establishment of the school, by her will, made the Trustees residuary legatees of one half of her estate, besides leaving them specific legacies of five hundred dollars in money, payable on the death of each of five relations. In 1838 and 1839, Mr. Amos Lawrence made liberal donations of books and philosophical apparatus; and, in 1842, he placed in the hands of the Trustees the sum of two thousand dollars, to be expended according to their judgment, in enlarging and improving the academy building. But these things added but little to the cash funds of the academy, and, while they

enlarged its instrumentalities, they did little to place it upon a firm and permanent foundation. This it was left for William Lawrence to do, in 1844, by a donation of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS. This donation was communicated to the Trustees in the following letter : —

BOSTON, April 6, 1844.

To the Trustees of Groton Academy :

GENTLEMEN, — Born and educated in Groton, I feel a deep interest in its prosperity, and especially in your academy ; an institution which my honored father labored so hard to bring into existence more than half a century ago, and to which I am indebted for what little education I possess.

Having been highly blessed in my temporal concerns, I have thought I could not better dispose of a portion of my abundance than to give to the academy over which you preside, a sum of money for the advancement of education for all coming time.

I, therefore, hereby give to Groton Academy the sum of ten thousand dollars, and direct that the same shall be invested in such manner, for the benefit of said corporation, as the Trustees thereof shall, from time to time, deem safe and expedient, and that the net income thereof shall be applied in their discretion. I am especially desirous that such compensation shall be paid to the instructors of said academy, as shall secure for it constantly the ser-

vices of learned persons, perfectly competent to all their duties.

And this gift is, therefore, upon condition that the present rate of charge for instruction in said academy shall not be reduced. But whenever hereafter, in any year, the whole net income of the present funds and property of said institution, and of the fees received for instruction, added to the net income of said ten thousand dollars, shall be more than sufficient for the payment of liberal salaries to such instructors, so that a balance of said income shall remain unexpended, I request the said Trustees in their discretion, and if they deem it expedient, to pay and distribute such balance, or any of it, to and among such deserving male pupils in such institution, preparing for a collegiate education, as the Trustees may think deserving such aid; but not more than one hundred dollars shall be paid or allowed to any one such pupil in any one year. And, in granting such aid, I earnestly request that no regard may be had to any sectarian views entertained by the pupils on the subject of the Christian religion.

You will please draw on Lawrence & Stone, Boston, for said sum of ten thousand dollars, in such sums and at such times as will suit your convenience.

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM LAWRENCE.

This letter is an honorable testimony to the noble and generous feelings of the writer ; and, at the same time, the three conditions annexed to the donation,—that there should be no diminution of the tuition fees, but that the income of the ten thousand dollars should be used in procuring the best and most competent teachers ; that, in case after paying liberal salaries to such, from the other resources of the academy, and the income of this fund, there should remain an unexpended balance, it was to be distributed at the discretion of the trustees among meritorious students preparing for a collegiate education ; and that, in such distribution, no regard should be had to any sectarian views entertained by the pupils on the subject of the Christian religion,—are alike indications of Mr. Lawrence's practical wisdom, his sound judgment, and his comprehensive charity. A special meeting of the Trustees was called to acknowledge this, the largest and most generous donation which they had at that time received ; and on their petition to the General Court, the next winter, at the session of 1845, the corporate name was changed from "Groton Academy," to the "Lawrence Academy at Groton."

In 1846, Mr. William Lawrence made to this institution another donation of five thousand dollars, to be expended under the direction of the Trustees in enlarging and improving the academy building, procuring a bell, ornamenting the grounds, &c. &c. ; and, during the same year, Mr. Amos Lawrence

purchased the residence of the late James Brazier, Esq., adjoining the academy lot, and presented it to the Trustees for the use of the successive preceptors of the academy.

Thus furnished with an enlarged and improved academy building, valuable additions to its library and philosophical apparatus, an elegant and commodious residence for the preceptor, and ten thousand dollars in funds, the institution was placed upon a secure and permanent foundation. Public attention was naturally directed to it, its scholars increased in number, its standard of education was elevated, its usefulness enlarged and extended, and had nothing further been done, the propriety of the appellation, "The Lawrence Academy at Groton," would have been justified, and all who bore that family name might have felt a deep satisfaction in its past history, and its present and prospective usefulness.

Whether Mr. William Lawrence originally determined to give something more to this institution at his death, or whether that determination was produced by an observation of the good effected by his former donations, cannot be clearly ascertained. Probably the purpose of further endowment was entertained, but left contingent upon the result of that observation. Always Mr. Lawrence exhibited one of the sure evidences of a pure heart, uncontaminated by those evil influences of wealth, which beget pride, haughtiness, a selfish and worldly spirit. He delighted in the memories and associations of

his childhood and youth. The old homestead was a hallowed spot in his affections, of which nothing could take precedence. The friends of his early days, the people and the interests of his native town, were never forgotten. There was something holy and reverent in his feelings towards Groton; and this feeling, always fresh and strong, increased both in tenderness and strength, as life waned, and he felt its end approaching. It was this feeling, united with the clear observation of the good already done, that produced the munificent donation contained in the following codicil to his will.

“Desirous to increase the usefulness of the Lawrence Academy in Groton, and to place its prosperity, (as far as I can do so,) on a secure foundation, I have, at different times heretofore, made donations for its benefit, and have also made provision for it in my will. But, upon reflection, I am induced to apprehend that what I have thus done may not be sufficient to accomplish the objects I have in view. Therefore, I hereby revoke the bequest contained in my said will, of ten thousand dollars to the Trustees of the Lawrence Academy at Groton, and I hereby give to the Trustees of the Lawrence Academy at Groton, aforesaid, their successors and assigns forever, the sum of TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, to be paid to the said corporation within one year after my decease, without interest, to be held by them, as a permanent public corporate body, specially charged with the care and su-

perintendence of education, upon the following trusts ; that is to say, carefully to manage and invest the said sum of twenty thousand dollars as they shall deem most safe and advantageous, having more regard to the safety of the principal than the amount of income ; to collect and receive the interest and income thereof ; to deduct therefrom, and pay all such necessary and proper charges as may be incurred in the management of the said trust fund ; and to apply the net interest and income of said twenty thousand dollars, or of the property in which it may be vested, to and for the following purposes, viz., to add one thousand dollars of said net income annually to the said principal sum, (so that it shall become part thereof,) until the whole principal fund held under this codicil shall amount to thirty thousand dollars ; which shall forever afterwards be taken and deemed to be the principal trust fund ; to apply the residue of the net interest and income of said twenty thousand dollars, until said trust fund shall amount to thirty thousand dollars, and afterwards to apply the whole net income and interest of said trust fund of thirty thousand dollars to the payment of the expense of keeping the buildings of said corporation at all times sufficiently insured by some safe Insurance Company or Companies in said commonwealth, to the payment in whole or in part (in their discretion) of the salaries and compensation of any instructor or instructors at said academy ; to aid in the mainte-

nance and education at said academy of any such meritorious persons, as may resort thither for instruction, who may, in the opinion of said Trustees, deserve and need such assistance, by advances as gifts or loans, (in the discretion of said Trustees,) not exceeding one hundred dollars to any one such student in any one year ; and to apply such portion of said net income, as said Trustees may from time to time deem expedient, to the purchase of books for the library of said academy, and philosophical and other instruments for the use of the pupils.

“ Whenever, and as often as from losses or other causes, the said principal fund shall be less than thirty thousand dollars, I direct that one thousand dollars of the net income of the residue of said fund shall be added annually to the principal, until the whole fund shall amount to thirty thousand dollars, and whenever the capital fund shall sustain a loss or diminution of less than one thousand dollars, then and in every such case, and within one year afterwards, sufficient of said net income shall be taken and added to the principal to make the sum thirty thousand dollars. I earnestly enforce it on all those who may have the care and management of the funds and property, given by me for the benefit of said academy, to invest the same with the utmost caution and prudence ; to appropriate the net income as herein directed, and in applying portions of it to the benefit of deserving students, as herein provided, to do so without favor or par-

tiality, and without regard to the religious sect to which any such student may belong, provided he be a Christian and a Protestant."

We lay the whole codicil before our readers, because we wish to do justice not simply to the benevolence of Mr. Lawrence, but to his wisdom, his practical good sense, and sound judgment. These are strikingly manifest in this codicil. Every thing that ought to be left to the discretion of the Trustees, is intrusted to their decision from year to year, while every provision, condition, and restriction introduced is marked by a wise forethought, a large, comprehensive prudence. The fund is charged with the expense incident to its proper care and management, with an insurance to be constantly had on the building belonging to the academy, and provision is made that the income shall be used to keep the capital sum up to the amount of thirty thousand dollars, in case it should at any time, through bad investments or other causes, be diminished. The wisdom of this last provision is obvious. Unless the whole should be at once and irretrievably lost, which is altogether improbable, it secures to the academy, for all coming time, a capital of thirty thousand dollars, a sum sufficient to insure a perpetual prosperity and usefulness. Meeting these conditions, the Trustees are at liberty to use the income in paying the salaries of teachers either in whole or in part, in aiding indigent students, either by an outright gift or by a loan for

such term of time as they see fit, the amount in each case not to exceed one hundred dollars, or in purchasing books, philosophical and other instruments for the use of the pupils. Here all the great interests of the institution, its buildings, its teachers, its students, its library and philosophical apparatus, are covered and secured by this codicil; and a large liberty is given to the Trustees to determine, from year to year, to which of these objects and in what proportions they will appropriate the income of the fund intrusted to them.

In this codicil, as well as in his other gifts to the academy at Groton, Mr. Lawrence showed himself to be a wise and enlightened, as well as generous benefactor of the great cause of education, and as such his name deserves to be held in remembrance and honor.

The importance resulting from the permanent character of his donations to Lawrence Academy, is justly described by the Rev. Mr. Means, in his discourse delivered before the Alumni of the school, at the jubilee held July 12, 1854. Speaking of Messrs. William and Amos Lawrence, as the benefactors of Groton Academy, he says: "There was a singular difference in the character of these two brothers, and there is a similar difference in the results of their benefactions. I have reason personally to know that they conferred frequently and earnestly respecting the parts which they should severally perform in upbuilding this school. There

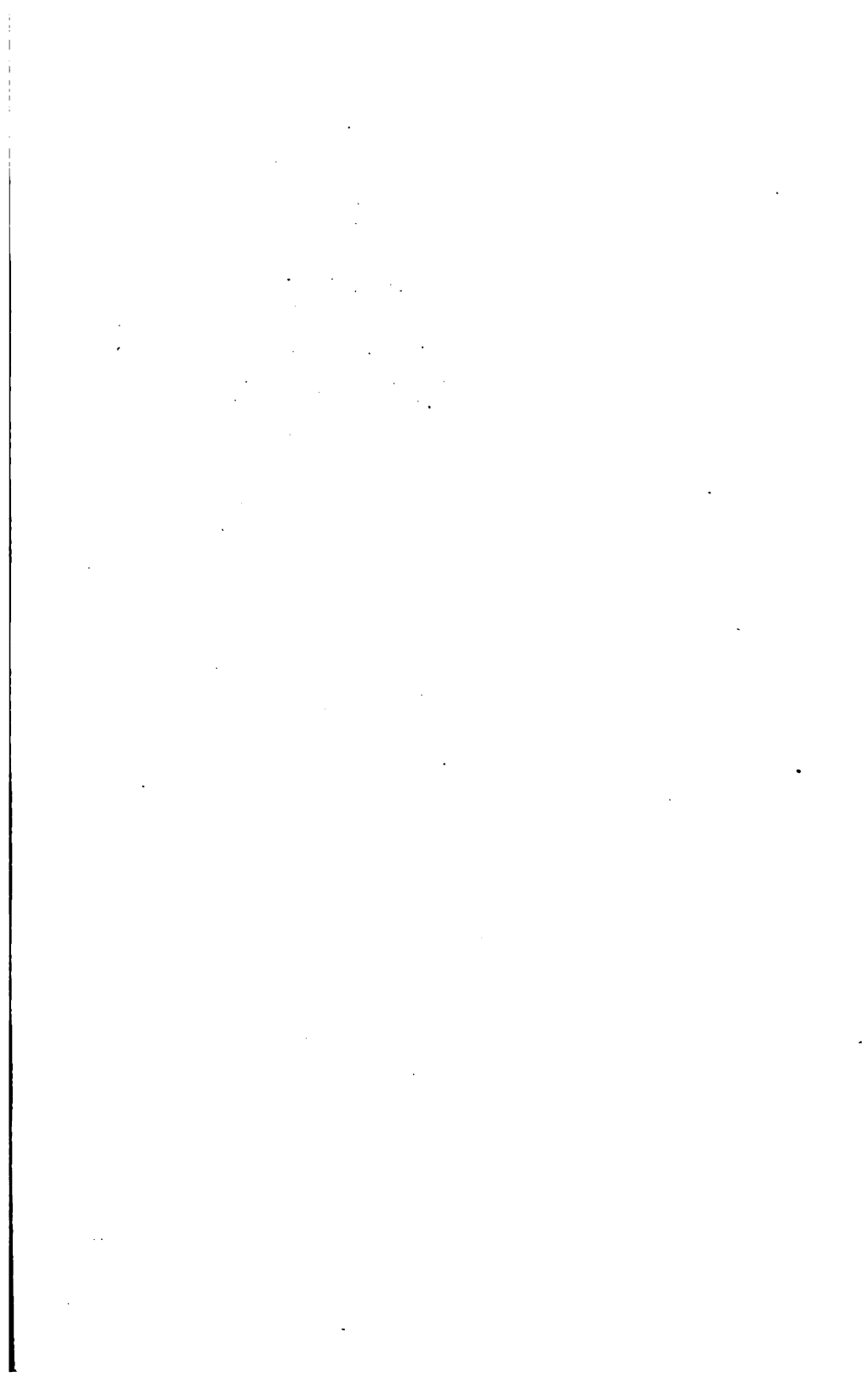
was an emulation, but there was no selfishness, there was no difference of opinion ; both loved the academy, wished to bless it and to make it a blessing ; each desired to accommodate the feelings of the other ; each was unwilling to interfere with the other ; each was ready to do what the other declined. Mr. William Lawrence was older in years, but he was later in commercial experience. He was firmer in health, and had less occasion, in the experience of bodily pain and dangerous illness than his brother, to lay to heart the injunction, ‘ Make unto yourselves friends of the unrighteous mammon, that when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.’ But though he began later, in respect to the amount bestowed upon this school, he was not behind his brother. On the contrary, he was before him. He gave more ; and more of what he gave remains to this day in a productive form. Out of more than forty-five thousand dollars, provided for the academy by Mr. William Lawrence, forty thousand will remain in the hands of the Trustees, for purposes of instruction ; while out of all that was given by Mr. Amos Lawrence, not one single cent was designed to be or now remains among the cash funds of the academy.”

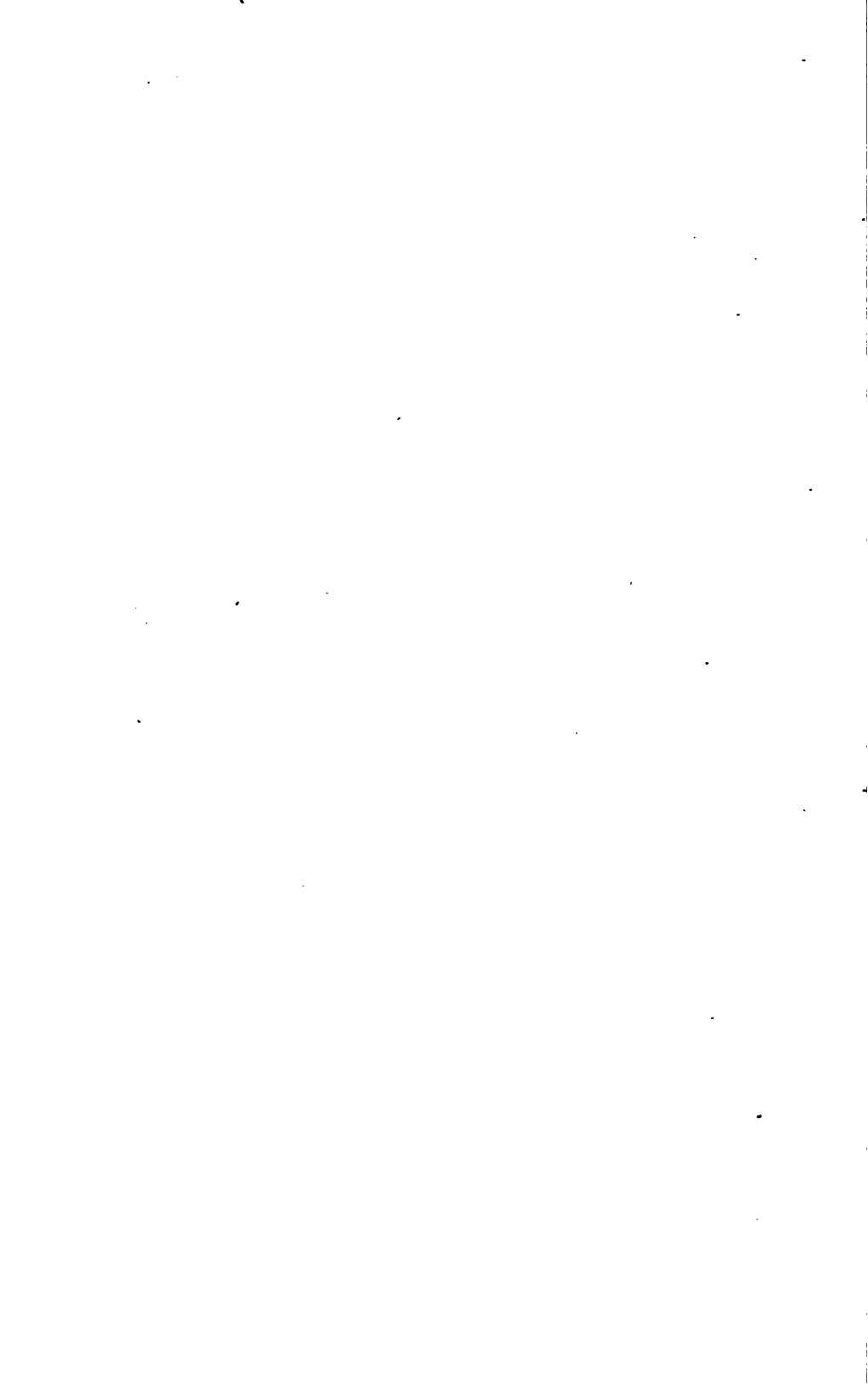
To William Lawrence, then, belongs the credit of the endowment of the Lawrence Academy at Groton, with a cash fund of forty thousand dollars, guarded by wise provisions, which secure thirty thousand in perpetuity, while in the distribution of

the income they leave a large liberty of choice and discrimination to the Trustees. The wisdom and benevolence of his conduct in this noble benefaction to the cause of education, indicate the two simple elements of his character. He was a man of sound judgment, of strong practical common sense, and of a large and kindly heart; and one source of his wise and sound judgment was his pure heart. He had no selfish or sinister ends to accomplish, the desire to accomplish which so often darkens the conscience, bewilders and misleads the judgment. Undoubtedly he had that desire of success and accumulation, which naturally accompanies every man in the enterprises of trade and commerce, but this success was to be accomplished by an open, manly, straight-forward honesty. "There were no disguises, concealments, subterfuges, pretences, or pretensions about him; all was plain, simple, frank, open as the day to all the world." Not eaten up with an intense *personal* anxiety, accustomed to look at all matters in the light of their broad relations to the interests of the whole community, his mind was clear to discern that which was wise, right, best, and his heart free to love and pursue it. The profound declaration of Scripture, "Out of the heart are the issues of life," found its fulfilment and illustration in him. A good heart, kind, tender, sympathizing, benevolent, strong in its affections, generous in its impulses, devout in its emotions, quickened and sanctified by a deep sentiment of religious

faith, reverence, and responsibility, this was the inspiring and controlling element of his character. A good heart gave him a clear head, a sound judgment, a wise discrimination. A good heart, deeply conscious of its responsibility to its Maker, filled with a love of God that unfolded itself in love and good-will to man, this made him pure as well as wise, his career honorable as well as successful, his life useful, his death peaceful, his memory to be revered and honored — that “memory of the just which is blessed.”

It is as a simple act of justice to that memory that we put upon the pages of the American Journal of Education this notice of one, who in his just appreciation of the importance of our New England academies, and in his wise and munificent endowment of one of these primary institutions of learning, has a strong claim to our grateful remembrance, as a faithful and efficient friend of the great cause of education, which we seek to promote. “Go thou and do likewise,” is the voice of instruction with which his example speaks to many a wealthy son of New England.





GENEALOGICAL MEMOIR.



GENEALOGICAL MEMOIR.

A FULL genealogical account of the family of Lawrence may be found in "Bond's History and Genealogies of Watertown," pages 819 and 1080.

John Lawrence came to this country from ~~Great St. Albans, Hertfordshire,~~ *Wipsett, Co Suffol* England, in 1635, and settled in Watertown the same year. He died at Groton, July 11, 1667. By his wife Elizabeth he had fifteen children :

NATHANIEL, their second son, born 1639, married Sarah Morse, of Sudbury, March 13, 1660. They had nine children :

JOHN, their fourth child and second son, born in Groton, July 29, 1667, married in Groton November 9, 1687, Anna Tarball. They lived at Cambridge Farms, (Lexington,) and had ten children :

AMOS, their tenth child and eighth son, born February 19, 1715-16, married November 17, 1749, Abigail Abbott. They lived in Groton, and had four children :

SAMUEL, their third son, born April 24, 1754, married 1777, Susanna Parker. They lived in Groton, and had nine children, as follows :

1. Luther, born September 28, 1778, died April 17, 1839.
2. Samuel, born July 2, 1781, died May 22, 1796.
3. William, born September 7, 1783, died October 14, 1848.

4. Amos, born April 22, 1786, died December 31, 1852.
5. Susanna, born May 24, 1788, died August 15, 1815, unmarried.
6. Mary, born November 12, 1790, married July 28, 1818, Rev. Samuel Woodbury.
7. Abbott, born December 16, 1792, died August 18, 1855.
8. Eliza, born March 13, 1796, married January 25, 1824, Joshua Green, M. D.
9. Samuel, born January 15, 1801.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE, the third son of Samuel and Susanna (~~Packet~~) Lawrence, was born at Groton, September 7, 1783. He died in Boston, October 14, 1848, aged 65 years. He was married May 20, 1813, by the Rev. Dr. John Lathrop, to **SUSAN RUGGLES BORDMAN** — only child of William and Elizabeth (Davis) Bordman — (see note) who was born April 29, 1787. Their children

1. William Bordman, born February 18, 1814, died September 7, 1840.
3. Lydia Elizabeth, born June 15, 1818, died June 29, 1818.
4. Sarah, born August 20, 1819, died August 24, 1819.
5. George Henry, born January 29, 1821, died February 5, 1825.
8. Mary Bordman, born February 21, 1824, died August 24, 1824.

Their surviving children, 1856, are :

2. Samuel Abbott, born July 28, 1815, married November 24, 1845, Sallie C. Bunker, daughter of Nathan Bunker, Esq., of Philadelphia.
 6. Susan Elizabeth, born October 5, 1822, married March 30, 1843, William Warren Tucker, of Boston, son of Alanson and Eliza (Thom) Tucker, of Derry, New Hampshire. Graduated Dartmouth College, 1835.
- Their children :

1. William Lawrence Tucker, born November 4, 1844.
In 1856, at school, at Vevey, Switzerland.
2. Alan Tucker, born April 20, 1848.
7. Harriet Bordman, born January 8, 1826, married September 11, 1848, Seth Edward Sprague, son of the Hon. Peleg and Sarah (Deming) Sprague. Graduated Harvard College, 1841. Their children :
 1. William Lawrence Sprague, born July 20, 1849.
 2. Fanny Bordman Sprague, born September 29, 1851, died July 16, 1856.
 3. Mary Fanny, born August 19, 1826, married March 3, 1852, Henry Austin Whitney, son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Pratt) Whitney. Graduated Harvard College, 1846. Their child :

Harry Lawrence Whitney, born October 27, 1854

Joseph Cutler Whitney b. Dec. 7. 1856.

NOTE.

CALEB DAVIS, born November, 1743, died July 6, 1797. He was the first Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives under the Constitution, October 25, 1780. He married September 30, 1760, Hannah Ruggles, daughter of Samuel Ruggles. She died October 30, 1782. Their daughter, Elizabeth Davis, born October 28, 1764, married Captain WILLIAM BORDMAN, the son of William and Susanna Bordman. He was born May 1, 1760, died May 1, 1842. He was married three times.

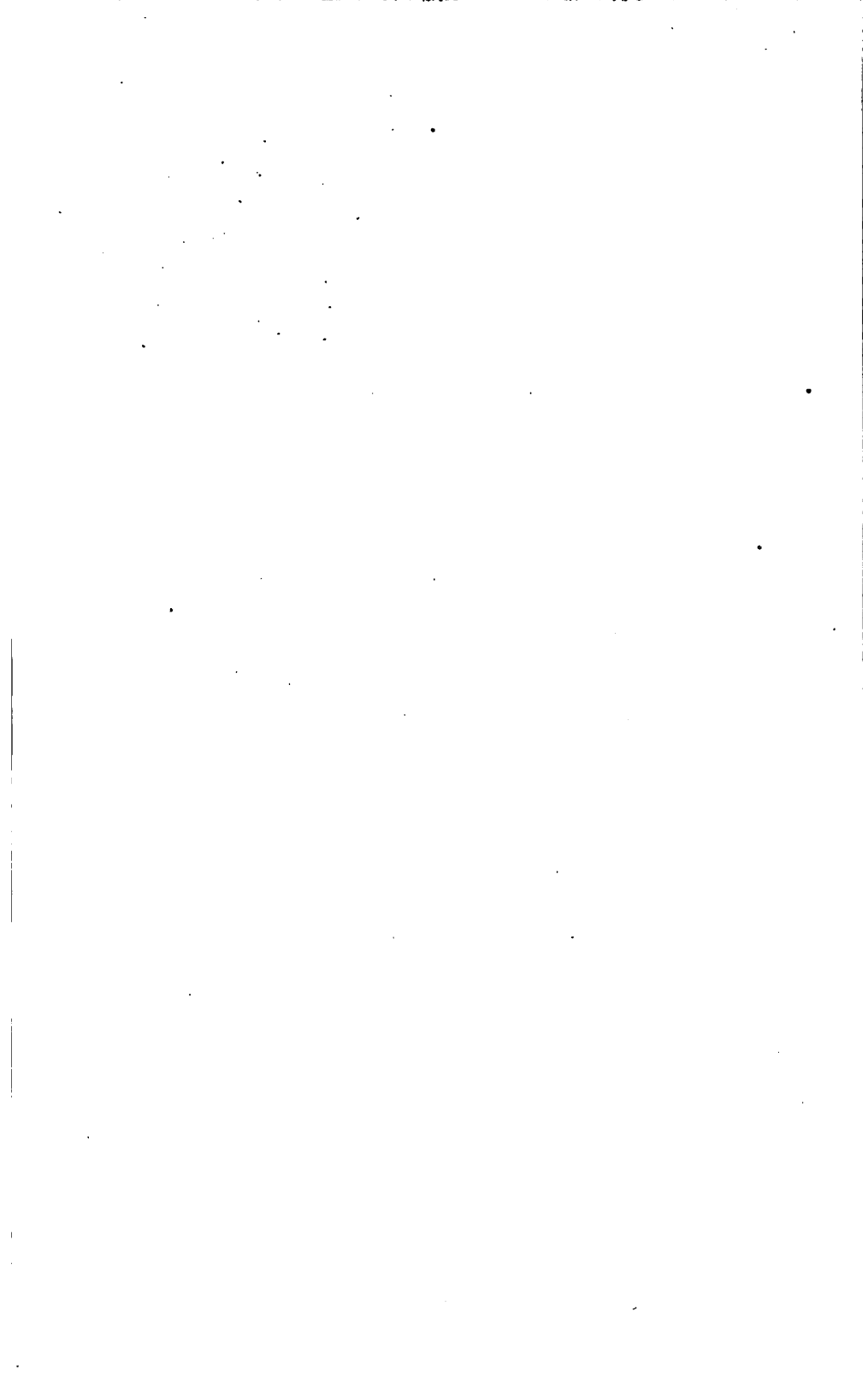
1. Elizabeth Davis, June 2, 1785. She died December 14,

1790. Their only child was Susan Ruggles Bordman, who married Mr. William Lawrence.

2. Sarah Davis, (the cousin of his first wife,) May 26, 1791. She died June 29, 1792. They had a son, who died in infancy.

3. Lydia Osborn, June 10, 1794. She survived her husband eleven years, and died October 21, 1853. They had no children, but Mrs. Bordman adopted at an early age Harriet Walker, who married George Parker, Esq., of Boston; and on Mrs. Parker's death, in September, 1821, she adopted her daughter, Harriet Lydia Bordman Parker, who married H. Turner Sargent, of Boston, March, 1841.

Elizabeth Hale, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Hale, married in Boston, September, 1845, at the residence of Mr. William Lawrence, William Réol Lejée, of Philadelphia. He was the son of John Réol and Joyeuse Josephine (Hamon) Lejée, born in Morge, Canton de Faux, Switzerland, where his parents resided for some years. His father, a native of Champagne, France, and his mother, of St. Domingo, W. I., were married in this country.









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